

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated October 18, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jamzadeh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,504,583).

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-14 and 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner also refers to amendments to overcome the Section 112 rejections and claim objections. However, it is believed that all such matters were addressed in the Amendment filed on May 1, 2006 in view of the present Detailed Action, page 2, paragraph 2.

Claims 1 and 25 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 23. Claims 26-27 correspond to the subject matter of claims 1 and 25 but with the allowable subject matter of claim 24. Claims 23-24 have been cancelled. Because these amendments raise no new issues in need of further consideration, Applicant submits that the amendments should be entered.

Because claim 1 is patentable for the reasons set forth above and has been deemed generic, all the claims should be rejoined and allowed in this application. Even if claim 1 is not deemed allowable, claim 6 has been deemed allowable and generic, which would also warrant rejoinder and allowance of the withdrawn subject matter (claims 15-21).

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Susan P. Pan
Registration No. 41,239

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